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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/529,562

03/28/2005

Won-Seok Kang

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BROUSE MCDOWELL LPA
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AKRON, OH 44311

EXAMINER

CECIL, TERRY K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1797

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/17/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

iplaw@brouse.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/529,562

Applicant(s)

KANG ET AL.

Examiner

Mr. Terry K. Cecil

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date one.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 4, 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims are indefinite because of the following reasons:

- The following terms lack antecedent basis: “the pusher” and “the inlet port” (claim 4; did applicant intend for claim 4 to depend from claim 2 instead?); and “the outlet port” (claims 6 and 7).
- In claims 6 and 7, the antecedent for “the valve body” is unclear since independent claim 1 also includes a valve body (are the antecedents the respective valve bodies of the second connector port and the third connector port?).
- In claim 6, since the second connector port connects with the outlet port, the phrase “the *inlet* port is brought into connection with the second connector port” is unclear; did applicant intend to claim “the *outlet* port is brought into connection with the...”?
- Also in claim 7, naming the connector port a “third” connector port is unclear, since the claim nor the claim from which it depends requires a second connector port. Therefore, for examination purposes, claim 7 only requires two connector ports.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

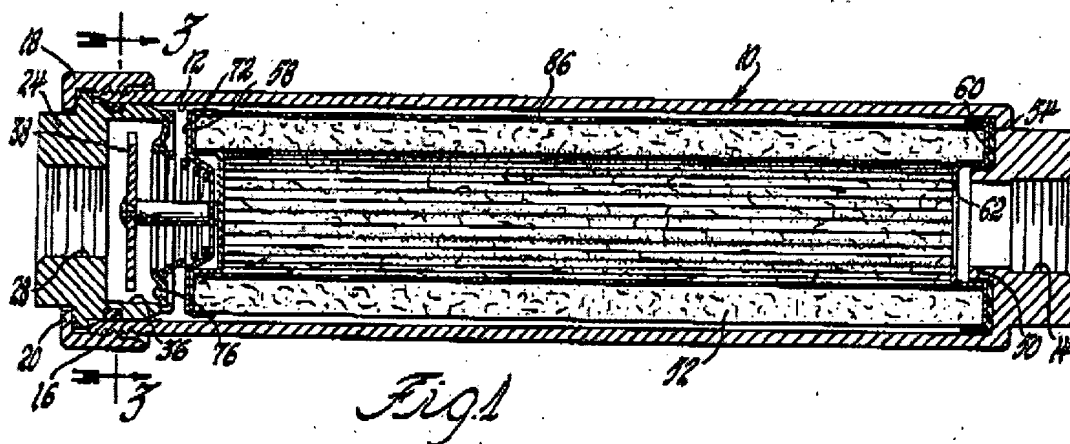
(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-2, 4 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eddy et al. (U.S. 3,327,858).

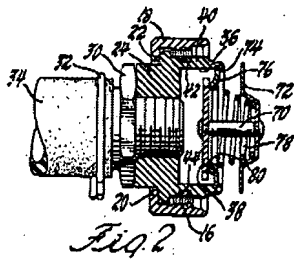
Filed June 10, 1964



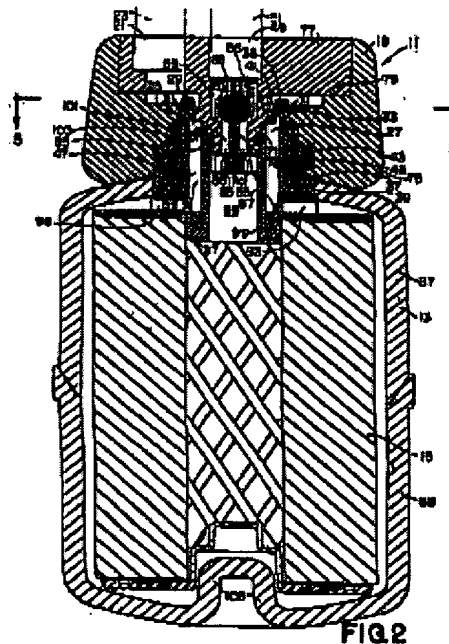
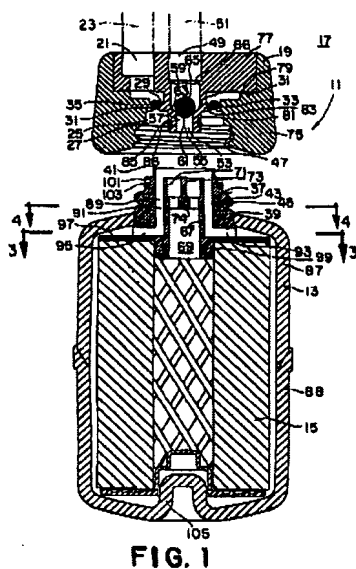
Eddy teaches a shut-off device including a connector (figure 2) having an inlet passageway and an inlet connector port 80. A poppet valve body 38 is positioned within a valve chamber of the connector and includes a projecting rod 70 [as in claims 1 and 4]. A filter including a housing defining an inlet port at an end portion thereof and an outlet port 14 at the other end portion

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thereof. Upon threaded connection of the filter housing to the connector, cap 58 acts as a pusher to open the valve body 38 to allow liquid to flow into the filter from the inlet 28 [as in claims 2 and 9]. Element 76 is a removable retainer for the valve body [as in claim 8].



5. Claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Williams (U.S. 5,695,168).



As can be readily seen in figures 1 and 2 produced above, Williams teaches all the limitations of the aforementioned claims including both the inlet and outlet ports of the connector including a ball valve body that is opened by a respective pusher of the filter. As explained in the 112 rejection above, claim 7 only requires two ports.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

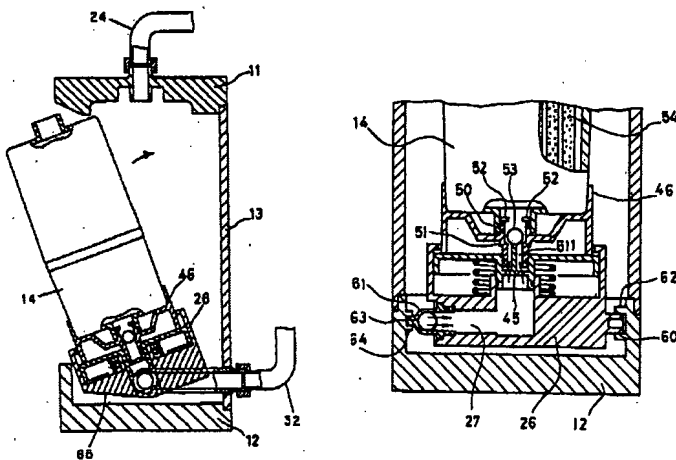
6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. Claims 1-3, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Higashijima et al. (U.S. 5,397,462) in view of Williams (U.S. 5,695,168).



Higashijima differs from the aforementioned claims in that the ball valve is positioned within a chamber in the filter instead of the connector. However, having the ball valve chamber within the connector and the pusher on the filter element is taught by Williams, as expanded above. It is considered that it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the

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invention to substitute the ball/pusher configuration of Higashijima with the ball/pusher configuration in Williams since such would achieve the predictable result of preventing water from conduit 32 leaking into the refrigerator.

Other Pertinent Art

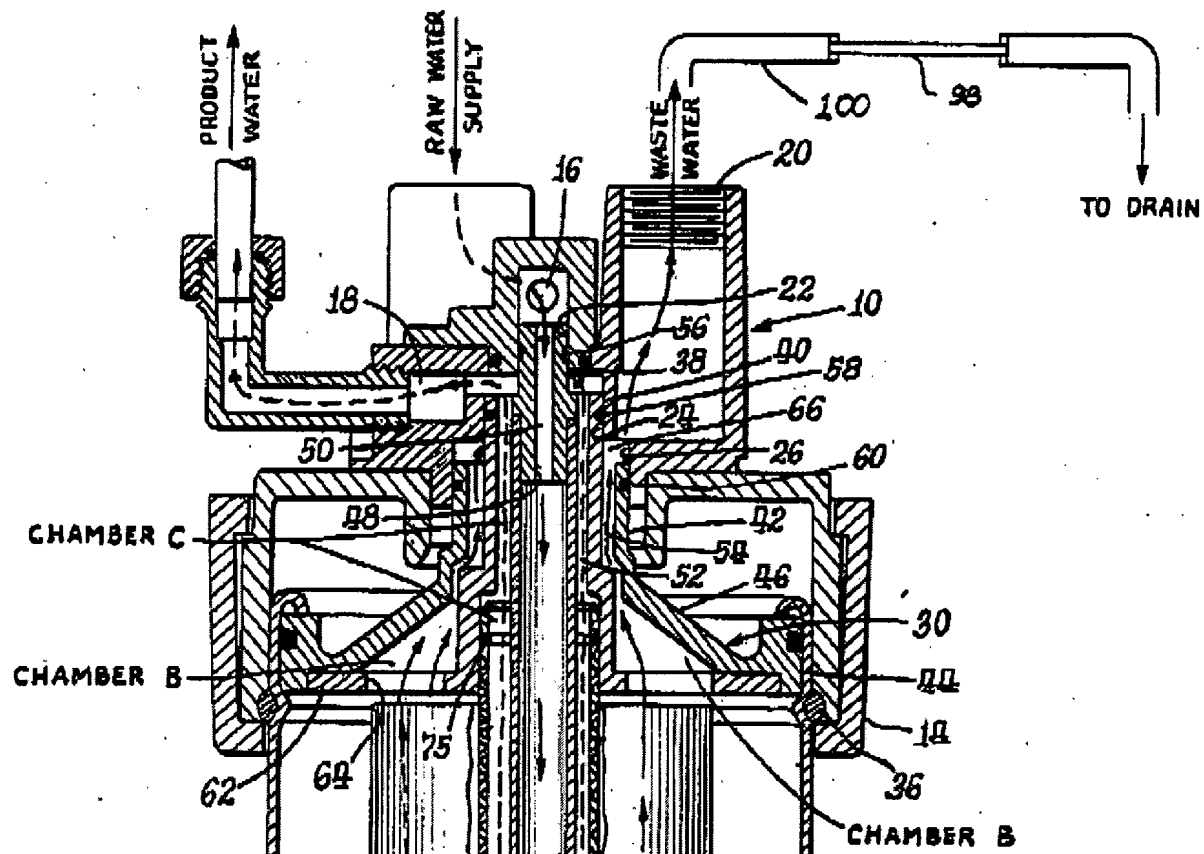
8. Concerning the subject matter of applicant's invention of a connector having three ports, such is known in the art as shown below.

United States Patent [19]

[11] Patent Number: **4,645,601**

Regunathan et al.

[45] Date of Patent: **Feb. 24, 1987**



1. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND REPORTING: ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD PROVIDE RELEVANT INFORMATION AND REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

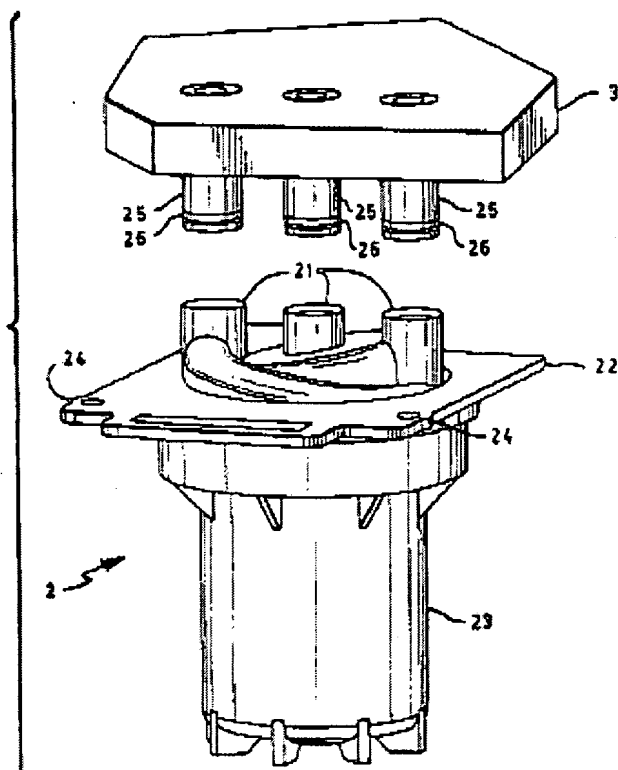
US006068770A

United States Patent [19]

[11] **Patent Number:** **6,068,770**

Niermeyer et al.

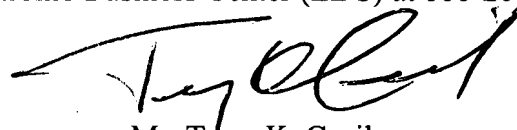
[45] **Date of Patent:** **May 30, 2000**



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Contact Information:

- Examiner Mr. Terry K. Cecil can be reached at (571) 272-1138 at the Carlisle campus in Alexandria, Virginia for any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner. Note that the examiner is on the increased flextime schedule but can normally be found in the office during the hours of 8:30a to 4:30p, on at least four days during the week M-F.
- David R. Sample, the examiner's supervisor can be reached on 571-272-1376, if attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful.
- The Fax number for this art unit for official faxes is (571) 273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mr. Terry K. Cecil
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 179797

TKC
October 11, 2007